

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 571

By Littleton

A RESOLUTION to recognize Youth Leadership Dickson and Bridge Builders Mental and Emotional Health CHANGE cohort on their efforts in support of mental health legislation.

WHEREAS, mental health remains an ongoing and ever-emerging challenge for many of our State's K-12 students; and

WHEREAS, a recent report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found more than one in three students reported experiencing depressive symptoms, including persistent feelings of sadness and hopelessness; and

WHEREAS, mental health is clearly a pressing issue, especially amongst youth; mental health excused absences are one simple solution with multiple benefits; and

WHEREAS, mental health excused absences would aid in destigmatization, as treating mental health the same as physical health would show its importance; and

WHEREAS, students could use a mental health day to take a break from the pressures of school, society, and their own individual hardships and face their mental health problems. They could spend the time doing activities that promote mental wellness and come to relax and feel better within the school setting; and

WHEREAS, mental health professionals suggest that allowing for such breaks could lead to more effective teaching and learning upon students' return to the classroom; and

WHEREAS, twelve states have implemented similar policies, including Arizona, Virginia, Utah, and Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, students with Youth Leadership Dickson drafted Senate Bill 1447/House Bill 558 to require a local education agency or public charter school to allow a student to use at least one excused absence from school to address their mental or behavior health; and

WHEREAS, Memphis-area high school students with the Bridge Builders Mental and Emotional Health CHANGE cohort met with members of this General Assembly to advocate for passage of such legislation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and recognize Youth Leadership Dickson and Bridge Builders Mental and Emotional Health CHANGE cohort on their efforts in support of mental health legislation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.